

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated August 18, 1999, and has made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, Claims 1, 3-14, 16-17, 19-20, and 22 are pending, Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 have been amended, and Claims 2, 15, 18, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to address the informalities identified by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,883,957 (Moline). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a communications data processing system in which data received over a communications network is buffered so that the received data can be smoothly processed. The system includes a receiver that receives data containing time information, and a memory for temporarily storing the data received. According to embodiments of the present invention, the system may wait to begin playing streaming data by at least two different ways: 1) by setting a time of a timer late by subtracting a delay time or 2) by adding the delay time to the time information derived from the streaming data received. Because the data is temporarily stored, the data can be processed smoothly even if a communications delay occurs during real time communications or long distance communications.

Moline fails to disclose actual ways of waiting to begin playing streaming data such as a timer that is set late by subtracting a delay time or an adder that adds a delay time to the time information derived from the streaming data. In Moline, as illustrated in Fig. 2, MIDI stream generator 219 generates MIDI stream 111 from stored track 215 such that each time a timer expires, the elapsed time since stream generator 219 has begun playing the track is determined, and event messages 117 are output until either

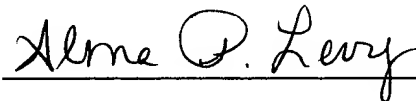
an event 213 is reached whose time stamp is greater than SongPos 217 or one is reached that is in an incomplete element 223. At that point, the timer is set again. As such, Moline discloses buffering techniques that can reproduce sound without interruption, wherein the sound is reproduced after temporarily storing a sufficient amount of streaming data. However, Moline fails to disclose "a timer . . . [that is set late] by subtracting a delay time," as defined in Claims 1, 14, and generally in Claims 17 and 20, and/or an adder for "adding a delay time to the time information" derived from the streaming data, as defined in Claims 8, 16, 19, and 22 of the present application. For the same reasons, Claims 3-7, which depend on Claim 1; and Claims 9-13, which depend on Claim 8, are patentably distinct over Moline.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a two-month extension of time, extending to January 18, 2000, the period for response to the Office Action dated August 18, 1999. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1853.

Respectfully submitted,

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